NATIONAL CORN
HUSKING CONTEST
DAVENPORT 1940

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CORN HUSKING CONTEST

October 27-30, 1940—Scott County, Iowa

Citizens of Davenport and Scott county welcome their friends and neighbors of the Corn Belt to Iowa for the seventeenth annual National Corn Husking Contest. As in years past, no charge is made for parking or gate admission.

Champions and runners-up are competing this year from the ten states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri and Iowa. The winner receives a gold trophy emblematic of the national title and a cash prize of $100.00.

Contest huskers go at top speed for eighty consecutive minutes. Each works a separate land of standing corn, taking two rows at a time across the field. Gleaners follow the contestants and for each pound of merchantable corn which they pick up, three pounds are deducted from the gross load. Percentage deductions also are made for excess weight of husks above a minimum of five ounces found in a 100 pound load sample.

Contest husking on a national basis was inaugurated in Polk county, Iowa, in the fall of 1924 by Henry A. Wallace of Des Moines. The big event now rotates from state to state under the sponsorship of the National Corn Husking Contest Association, an organization of state farm papers. The host publication for 1940 is Wallaces' Farmer and Iowa Homestead of Des Moines.

The present national husking record—41.52 bushels in the official time period—was made in 1935 by Elmer Carlson of Audubon county, Iowa. In seventeen years, Iowa huskers have been victorious six times; Illinois, five times; Minnesota, three times; and Indiana once.

As a folk celebration built around the corn plant, the husking contest is a peculiarly American custom. Corn originated in the western hemisphere and was grown by the Indians for hundreds of years before the coming of the white man. Columbus found it on the island of San Salvador in the West Indies in November, 1492. It has since spread to all countries of the world and is the backbone of middlewestern agriculture. Iowa, in particular, owes a large measure of its prosperity to this stalwart green plant, to which Longfellow paid such fitting tribute in his immortal poem, "Hiawatha."

> Then he called old Nokomis
> And Iagoo, the great boaster,
> Showed them where the maize was growing,
> Told then of his wondrous vision,
> Of his wrestling and his triumph,
> Of his new gift to the nations,
> Which should be their food forever.

NATIONAL CONTESTS

Year	Host State	No. Entries	Winners	Home State	Net Lbs.	Net Bu.
1924	Iowa	6	Fred Stanek	Iowa		24.35
1925	Illinois	8	Elmer Williams	Illniois		35.8
1926	Nebraska	12	Fred Stanek	Iowa	2,121.3	30.3
1927	Minnesota	11	Fred Stanek	Iowa	1,083.	15.5
1928	Indiana	14	Walter Olson	Illinois	1,864.04	26.6
1929	Missouri	13	Walter Olson	Illinois	1,769.1	25.3
1930	Kansas	13	Fred Stanek	Iowa	2,124.45	30.3
1931	Iowa	14	Orville Welch	Illinois	2,196.4	31.3
1932	Illinois	18	Carl Seiler	Illinois	2,584.	36.9
1933	Nebraska	18	Sherman Henriksen	Nebr.	1,933.69	27.6
1934	Minnesota	18	Ted Balko	Minn.	1,805.05	25.8
1935	Indiana	18	Elmer Carlson	Iowa	2,906.57	41.5
1936	Ohio	18	Carl Carlson	Iowa	1,472.75	21.
1937	Missouri	20	Ray Hanson	Minn.	1,497.00	21.4
1938	So. Dakota	21	Ted Balko	Minn.	1,557.00	22.2
1939	Kansas	21	Lawrence Pitzer	Ind.	1,987.02	28.4

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